some time past conducting operations on these lines, and it is time that Travancore, so fortunately situated in the possession of its forest wealth, followed suit. Government are anxiously considering the best method of approaching the problem.

19. Public Works.—A well-organised and efficient Department of Public Works has always been one of the praiseworthy features of the administration of Travancore. It is, however, a matter for regret that, owing to the financial stringency experienced by the State as a result of the war, Government were unable in recent years to utilise the services of the department to the maximum advantage. The pre-war allotment of about Rs. 37 lakhs a year under the head of public works had to be reduced by about Rs. 10 lakhs a year during the period of the war. It should now be the chief aim of the Government to provide an adequate allotment for expenditure on public works, especially water-ways and roads, which contribute so materially to the comfort and convenience of the public and facilitate the transport of commodities. During 1095, the expenditure under Public Works was allowed to go up to nearly Rs. 33 lakhs, and during the current year, special grants to the extent of nearly Rs. 3 lakhs have already been sanctioned over and above the budgetted provision of Rs. 32 lakhs, on such highly useful works as the Shertallay and Tiruvalla canals and special repairs to certain important roads. The Chief Engineer thinks that, in view of the general all-round increase in the cost of labour and material, his department will not be able to carry out as much work as was done in the past without a budget allotment of Rs. 40 lakhs per annum. Many of the taluks in Central and North Travancore are still lacking in good roads, while the opening up of the High Range Division with its immense possibilities of economic development and the profitable extraction of valuable timber from State forests are considerably retarded by the absence of adequate communications. While on this topic, Government have very great pleasure in expressing their appreciation of the co-operation extended to them by the people in certain parts of the State in the matter of opening up new communications and maintaining old ones. To cite only one instance, the Kallupara Swadesabhivardhini Sangham has constructed some fifty miles of road in the course of the last few years. What the Sangham has done is to give the land free and execute earthwork, leaving the State to carry out the necessary masonry work and give the finishing touches to the roads. Again, people who live in villages connected by minor roads with main roads have come forward with proposals to maintain the former, subject to the grant of a subsidy from Government. Government realise that the maintenance of such roads can be attended to by the villagers concerned far more cheaply and efficiently than the Public Works Department which has to work from a distance. The Chief Engineer has been requested to give every support to these praiseworthy popular movements. Government have no doubt that the problem of [illegible] high prices and increased cost of labour can be successfully met to a degree by the transference of the execution of such works to the people on the spot.

20. Railways.—While we are on the subject of communications, it is but fitting that the question of the extension of railways should be taken up for consideration. It cannot be denied that Travancore is at present not adequately served in respect of railways. It will be of interest to you to know that the State of Baroda, with an area and revenue not much larger than ours, and with a population which is only about two-thirds of ours, has a total length of about 535 open miles of railway against the 100 miles owned by Travancore. It is needless to point out that the advent of a railway has invariably the effect of opening up and enriching the country served by it in a variety of ways, and it so happens that in Travancore the tracts not yet tapped by railways are some of the most valuable and populous in the whole State. The expansion of our railways and the creation of a State Railway Department are matters which cannot be put off very long, especially in view of the approaching development of the Cochin Port and of the fact that that port draws most of its supplies from this country. Government have accordingly decided to have a reconnaissance survey made of three lines of railways, one connecting the High Range with the Cochin Port and running throughout within Travancore territory, another connecting the same port with a convenient point on the Shencottah-Quilon line and running through the most populous tracts and important towns in that part of the

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country, and the third connecting the capital with Nagercoil, the second biggest town in the State.

21. Anchal.—As you are aware, a good many reforms have recently been effected with a view to improve the working of the State postal service. Motor transport has replaced the ordinary runners' service on all the main roads and the transport of mails has been considerably expedited. The advantages of this improvement are reflected in the satisfactory increase in the number of covers and valuable articles posted and of hundies issued. Reciprocity has been introduced between Travancore and Cochin in regard to the issue of value-payable hundies. The salaries of the staff have been recently revised and improved and all possible retrenchments effected. Although certain rates of postage had to be slightly raised, care has been taken to maintain the charges at an appreciably lower level than the British Indian postage. The Anchal Superintendent is being deputed to Madras to study the working of the British postal system, both on the administrative and account sides, with a view to further improve the efficiency of his department.

22. Medical Relief.—Since the appointment of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan as the head of the Medical Department, a great deal has been done towards improving the tone and efficiency of the department. An Assistant Surgeon has this year been deputed to England with a State scholarship for a period of two years for study in diseases and injuries to the eye. He has also been directed to undergo training in advanced surgery. Another Assistant Surgeon has proceeded on a year's study leave to specialise in diseases affecting the nose, the ear and the throat, and on his return he will be posted to the General Hospital for carrying on that branch of the work. In order to give an up-to-date training to the older officers of the department, arrangements have been made for their being transferred by turns to the General Hospital where they will work both in the in-patient and the out-patient wards and provided with opportunities, in the clinical laboratory, of studying, applying and practising the latest methods adopted in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. A new system of testing the work of officers in the mofussil has been introduced, under which every officer is obliged to furnish a running record of the treatment of each important case to the Darbar Physician, thereby enabling the latter to correct mistakes and issue timely instructions. All medical officers have been directed to give regular courses of lectures to their subordinate staff and to the public on infection, contagion, antiseptics, disinfection, and the prevention of diseases caused by germs. A Bacteriologist has been newly appointed and has been deputed to Madras and Kasauli to undergo a course of special training in pathology and bacteriology respectively. Considerable improvements and extensions to the General Hospital are in contemplation with a view to bring that institution up to the level of a modern hospital. With a view to minimise the ravages of tuberculosis, Government have sanctioned, at the instance of the Darbar Physician, the opening of a ward in each of the larger hospitals for the admission and care of the more advanced cases, and plans are maturing for the establishment, on up-to-date lines, of a sanatorium in South Travancore for the admission and treatment of all early cases. In the Leper Asylum, Trivandrum, the latest method of treatment by means of injections has been introduced with encouraging results. Two separate wards for the segregation and care of the untainted children of leper patients have been recently constructed. Orders have also issued for the amendment of the Lepers Regulation with a view to take power to compel lepers to go into the Asylum. A scheme is under contemplation for carrying on special research work in regard to the diseases peculiar to Travancore. And lastly, in view of the increasing demand for trained nurses both in hospitals and private houses, a class for the training of nurses has been opened.

23. Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has also made considerable progress since its reorganisation in 1093. During 1095, the two private Patasalas at Changankulangara in Central Travancore and Ettumanur in North Travancore were recognised as grant-in-aid institutions. The sum of Rs. 10,000 provided in the budget for that year under debt head, for the cost of the preparation of medicines in

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